

What is claimed is:

1. A method of privately sharing served resources between first and second computers connected to an internetwork for exchanging network packets therebetween, wherein said served resources reside in said first computer, and wherein each of said computers has a respective private IP address within said internetwork, said method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a central server coupled to said internetwork and containing a database of IP addresses of registered computers;

running call clients in each of said first and second computers for establishing a data call between said first and second computers in response to said database of IP addresses;

generating within said first or second computer a request for sharing said served resources;

running a server application in said first computer for hosting said served resources; and

running client applications in said first and second computers for retrieving said served resources from said server application simultaneously;

wherein said server application and said client application running in said second computer exchange network packets in response to said IP addresses used by said call clients.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said IP address used in said call client of said first computer is reported to said server application and wherein said server application sends a session initiation message to said client application running on said second computer.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said IP address used in said call client of said second computer is reported to said client application running in said second computer and wherein said client application running in said second

computer sends a session initiation message to said server application.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said server
5 application exchanges network packets with said client application running in said second computer using a network session already established for said data call.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said call clients
10 terminate operation during said exchange between said server application and said client application running in said second computer.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said request for
15 sharing said served resources causes launching of said server application and said client applications.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the
steps of:
20 originating a voice telephone call between users of said first and second computers in response to a target telephone number; and
transmitting said target telephone number to said
central server for determining one of said IP addresses.

8. Computer apparatus for privately sharing served
resources residing in said computer apparatus with a remote
computer via an internetwork for exchanging network packets,
said computer apparatus and said remote computer having
30 respective private IP addresses within said internetwork,
said computer apparatus comprising:

a call client for transmitting information
identifying said remote computer to a central server
maintaining a database of IP addresses of registered
35 computers, and for establishing a data call between said
computer apparatus and said remote computer in response to
said database of IP addresses;

a server application for hosting said server resources; and

a client application for retrieving said served resources from said server application;

5 wherein said server application is configured to exchange network packets with a remote client application running on said remote computer in response to said database of IP addresses.

10 9. The computer apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a user interface responsive to a user for launching said server application and said client application in order to initiate sharing of said served resources.

15 10. The computer apparatus of claim 9 wherein said user interface presents said served resources to said user.

20 11. A software product for privately sharing served resources between a resident computer and a remote computer over a computer network, the software product comprising:

software configured to transmit information identifying said remote computer to a central server maintaining a database of IP addresses of registered computers, running a call client for establishing a data
25 call between said resident computer and said remote computer in response to said database of IP addresses, generating a request for sharing said served resources, running a server application in said resident computer for hosting said
30 served resources, and running client applications in said resident computer and said remote computer for retrieving said served resources from said server application simultaneously, wherein said server application and said client application running in said remote computer exchange
35 network packets in response to said IP addresses used by said call client; and

a storage system that stores said software product.

12. The software product of claim 11 wherein said IP
address used in said call client is reported to said server
application and wherein said server application sends a
session initiation message to said client application
5 running on said remote computer.

13. The software product of claim 11 wherein said IP
address used in said remote computer is reported to said
client application running in said remote computer and
10 wherein said client application running in said remote
computer sends a session initiation message to said server
application.

14. The software product of claim 11 wherein said
15 server application exchanges network packets with said
client application running in said remote computer using a
network session already established for said data call.

15. The software product of claim 14 wherein said
20 call client terminates operation during said exchange
between said server application and said client application
running in said remote computer.

16. The software product of claim 11 wherein said
25 server application and said client applications are launched
is response to a request for sharing said served resources.